

based on whether the initial form of the data matched the reference to the same user computer that requested the requesting validation service.

Remarks

Claims 1-41 are currently pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 10, 19, 31, 36, 37, 40, and 41 have been amended. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 10-11, 19-20, 31-32, 37-38, and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(3) as being anticipated by Sitaraman (US Pat. 6,718,332). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

All independent claims recite that the same client application server, application, customer application computer, or user computer that sent the request for validation receives the response that includes the indication of valid or invalid. As discussed, Sitaraman fails to disclose the same computer that sent the request also receiving the indication of the result of any validation, since in Sitaraman the data is getting transferred forward to another system that the system that initiated any validation. Accordingly, all independent claims are allowable over Sitaraman.

In relation to the Examiner's introduction of Courtney (US Pub 2003/0046370), Applicants point out that this application was filed after the present application and is not prior art. Therefore, any disclosures of this Courtney reference are irrelevant.

Additionally, claim 1 now further recites that the data validation includes checking whether a date specified in the data is in a valid format based on the number of digits that represent the year and further includes checking whether the date falls within a set range of dates. The cited references fail to disclose this combination of data validation in addition to failing to disclose that the indication of valid or invalid is returned to the computer system that requested the validation.

Accordingly, claims 1-41 are allowable over Sitaraman for at least these reasons.

103 Rejections

Claims 3-9, 12-18, 21-35 and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sitaraman in view of Whitehead, while claims 36 and 41 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Sitaraman in view of Allen (US Pat 6,078,918). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

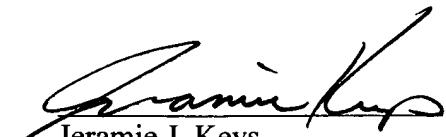
As discussed above, Sitaraman alone fails to disclose the recitations of the claims in that the same computer that has generated the request is receiving the indication of the result of the validation. Neither Whitehead nor Allen account for this deficiency of Sitaraman such that the rejections based on the combinations with Sitaraman also fail to disclose such recitations. Accordingly, the claims rejected based on the combination with Sitaraman are also allowable for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-41 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees beyond the fee for continued examination are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: August 19, 2005

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